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16 November 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Employee Medical Benefits

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1. On 12 November 1970 Mr. Coffey called together Messrs [ ] to discuss possible expansion of employee medical benefit programs.

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2. Mr. Coffey reported that the Director had questioned whether the Agency should be doing more for employees and families faced with high medical bills resulting in permanent indebtedness. The military medical program and the benefits afforded astronauts and their families were suggested as possible areas for investigation. The Director had asked DD/S to study the subject and make recommendations.

3. Dr. Tietjen had subsequently prepared a response specifically related to the astronaut program (DD/S 70-4020) and Mr. Warner had completed a similar paper regarding military entitlements (DD/S 70-4140). In further discussions between Dr. Tietjen, Mr. Warner and Mr. Wattles, it was suggested that a small group be organized to study the subject of medical situations involving financial disaster and to make appropriate recommendations. Mr. Coffey charged those at the present meeting with this task.

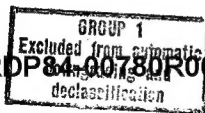
4. The DD/S report to the Director is due by 1 December 1970.

5. The Director has indicated that if necessary and appropriate, he is prepared to request new legislation to solve this problem.

6. After the meeting with Mr. Coffey, [ ] asked the group to consider the problem individually and to be prepared on 17 November to discuss possible approaches to the problem. At this point there was some discussion regarding the types of financial disasters which might be considered, the extent to which failure to subscribe to available medical insurance should

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be considered, and the effect of non-insured expenses such as special schooling necessitated by conditions which bear some relationship to medical factors.

7. Lacking knowledge of any specific cases which the Director might have in mind, it was generally agreed that in order to keep the problem within bounds which could reasonably be evaluated before 1 December, consideration would be given only to medically-related situations which exceeded or were outside of our present medical insurance program, and to the possible failure of some employees to subscribe to those plans now available.



Support Operations Staff/DD/S

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